



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

September 29, 2009

ADOPTED

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

1-P

SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT COMPETITIVE EXCESS FUNDS
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS
(THIRD DISTRICT - 3 VOTE MATTER)**

SUBJECT

This action will award \$2,147,100 in Third Supervisorial District Competitive Excess Funds to the City of Westlake Village, the Mountains Restoration Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of land for trails in the Santa Monica Mountains.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are not subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.
2. Find that the Mountains Restoration Trust's Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail Project and the Trust for Public Land's Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project are categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15325 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1987, because the projects involve acquisitions of areas to preserve open space for park purposes and the existing natural conditions.

3. Allocate Competitive Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District, in the amount of \$2,147,100 in the following schedule:
 - City of Westlake Village - \$500,000 for the Ridgeford Trail Project
 - Mountains Restoration Trust - \$147,100 for the Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail Project
 - The Trust for Public Land - \$500,000 for the Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project
 - Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority - \$500,000 for the Coastal Slope Trail, and \$500,000 for the Topanga Motorway/Summit-to-Summit Trails Projects.
4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants for the identified projects when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommendations will allocate \$2,147,100 in Competitive Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for the acquisition of natural land for trails projects consistent with the Trails Component of the Los Angeles County General Plan as follows:

Ridgeford Trail Project (\$500,000): Acquisition of a 4.4 acre parcel of land and realignment of an existing riding and hiking trail easement located on the Oak Forest Homeowners Association site in Westlake Village.

Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail Project (\$147,100): Acquisition of the 3.68 acre Brown/Del Conte parcel within the Cold Creek Preserve in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project (\$500,000): Acquisition of 110 acres in Ramirez Canyon in Malibu as an addition to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Coastal Slope Trail Acquisition Project (\$500,000): Acquisition of a 169,250 square-foot trail/conservation easement over an 11.65 acre parcel in Carbon Canyon.

Topanga Motorway/Summit-to-Summit Trail Project (\$500,000); Acquisition of nine parcels totaling 101.5 acres in the Calabasas Highland area between Summit-to-Summit Motorway and Henry Ridge Motorway.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grants to the grantees identified in the attachment, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and to administer the grants under procedures previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being (Goal 2), by allocating Excess Funds for projects to enhance trails on natural lands in the Santa Monica Mountains in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$2,147,100 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. All five agencies to be allocated funding in this action meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for city, County, and competitive projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

Your Board approved a Procedural Guide on June 2, 2009, to govern the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants. This Procedural Guide would appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grant as well.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended projects will enhance recreational opportunities on trails in natural areas in the Santa Monica Mountains in the Third Supervisorial District.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The City of Westlake Village is the lead agency for the Ridgeford Trail Project. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is the lead agency for the Coastal Slope Trail and Topanga Motorway/Summit-to-Summit Trails Projects.

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District is the lead agency for the Mountains Restoration Trust's Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail Project and the Trust for Public Land's Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project. The proposed projects are categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15325 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1987, because the projects involve acquisitions of areas to preserve open space for park purposes and the existing natural conditions.

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The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPEEDDISTRICT(3rd DISTCOMP GRANTS 2009 BL)

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Acting County Counsel